West Bridgewater Public Library

Trustees Reception

Dedication of the Children's Room

in memory of

James L. Grandfield

Sunday, the second of October

Two thousand and five

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Dedication Ceremony

2:00 p. m.

PROGRAM
TRUSTEES RECEPTION
SUNDAY OCTOBER 2, 2005
DEDICATION OF CHILDREN'S ROOM IN MEMORY OF JAMES L. GRANDFIELD

2:00 P.M.

Welcome — Beth Roll Smith
Library Director

Invocation — Joseph M. Utka
Parish Council Member, St. Ann's Church

Flag Ceremony — Clarence Willard, *Chaplain*
American Legion Post # 91, East Bridgewater

Remarks — Brian L. Lanner
Chairman, Library Board of Trustees
Robert L. Sullivan
Current Library Trustee who served with James
Helen S. Millet
Former Library Trustee who served with James
R. Wayne Legge
Former Library Trustee who served with James

Town Representative — Matthew P. Albanese
Board of Selectmen

Introduction of the Grandfield Family — Beth Roll Smith

Remarks — Ellen M. Snow
Daughter of James L. Grandfield

Paul M. Snow
Son-in-law of James L. Grandfield

Poem — If by Rudyard Kipling
Read by: Dominick P. Vitale, Jr., *Family Friend*

Dedicatory Address — John P. Grandfield
Son of James L. Grandfield

Dedication of Children's Room in Memory of James L. Grandfield
Jane Cartier
Children's Librarian

Benediction — Rev. Dr. Carol Ashton
The First Church

Ribbon Cutting — Mrs. James L. Grandfield and Brian J. Grandfield
Son of James L. Grandfield

Invitation to Open House — Library Board of Trustees

HISTORY OF THE WEST BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY

In December 1878 Francis E. Howard, a prominent West Bridgewater citizen, offered the sum of five hundred dollars toward the development of a Public Library with the condition that an equal sum be raised from other residents of the community. Mr. Howard's proposition was accepted with enthusiasm at the March 1879 Town Meeting, and the additional sum of money was quickly raised through subscription, donation, and "entertainment."

Those gathered at the Town Meeting also established a Board of Directors (Trustees) to oversee the founding and development of the new Public Library. It was decided that "the Board should be composed of an equal number of Ladies and Gentlemen."

The site for the Library was a rented room in what was then the Post Office. After renovation of the room, acquisition of a collection of books (through purchase and donation), the Library opened for business on the last Saturday in October 1879. Miss Mary Perkins was employed as West Bridgewater's first librarian, a position she held for the following thirty years.

In November 1881 the Library was moved from its overcrowded room in the Post Office to larger quarters in the Howard Seminary Building. By 1899 the twenty year old Library had grown from a collection of 871 books to a total of 5,124 volumes. Once again overcrowded conditions forced the Trustees to find a new location for the Public Library.

In 1908 the Library was moved from the Howard Seminary to the former Center Primary School. For the first time the Library occupied its own building. The new location was considered a great improvement with more space, better lighting, and open bookcases which allowed patrons to browse.

In 1913 the Library opened its first and only "Branch" in the home of Mrs. Prescott Snell to serve residents in the North Elm Street area.

Library use grew slowly until the Depression, when circulation of books soared. During those years of economic hardship, there was a great demand for a larger library and for more books.

The popularity of the Library continued to grow through the late thirties. During the forties, the focus of the Trustees changed. The years during World War II were hectic ones, and the Trustees took on the added responsibility of collecting books for distribution to American Servicemen stationed in Europe.

In 1956 a committee was appointed by Special Town Meeting to "survey Library facilities," because, once again, the use of the Library was hampered by its physical limitations.

The Town Meeting of November 1960 voted the sum of $50,000 for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new Public Library. Construction began in 1961, and the Library building opened its doors in September 1962. The old Library building (the Center Primary School) was sold and moved to the corner of South Main Street and Ash Street and today houses the Kenmore Tire business.

By the early 1980s the Library had grown to be overcrowded again. The new building program involved patron surveys, planning documents, preliminary plans, two design selection committees, cost estimates, architect plans, transfer of land from the School committee to the Board of Trustees, environmental considerations, and Town Meeting votes for a twenty year bond issue. The result was a $1.2 million new Library building at 80 Howard Street.

The new Library building opened on May 6, 1990. Today the Library houses 71,000 items including books, magazines, videos, CDs, DVDs, audiotapes, and puppets. It circulates 61,800 items per year. 4,290 residents are registered for library cards. It is a member of SAILS Library Network, the on-line computer consortium providing circulation, cataloging, and patron access to 1.2 million titles from 60 public libraries. The Library has twenty personal computers connected in various ways to SAILS, the Internet, Comcast, and word processing. The library has a web site and an electronic newsletter. In addition to the Director there are two full time staff and seven part time staff. The Library is open 43 hours per week, has active children's programming, and is a busy center for the community. The Friends of the Library is an active group supporting the program of the Library with speakers, book sales, and the Reading is Fundamental distribution of free books to school students in grades one through five. The Library is truly making its place in the twenty first century.

Over the past 126 years Francis Howard's proposition has become an integral part of West Bridgewater. All of us who value our Public Library must foster its continued growth for the benefit of our community.

POETRY- A PILOT'S SONNET

John Gillespie Magee, Jr. was an American who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force as a volunteer in 1940 and was killed in England during the war a year and a half later. He was just nineteen years old when he died. Three months before his death he composed the sonnet "High Flight" which he wrote on the back of a letter addressed to his mother. The poem was chosen as the official poem of the RAF and RCAF and posted in pilot training centers throughout the Commonwealth. High Flight is one of the best-known Canadian poems. It was a favorite poem of James L. Grandfield.

High Flight

Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there.
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace.
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

Program Continued

2:30 P.M.

Katie Green, *Storyteller*
Hans Christian Andersen's 200th Birthday Party Celebration
with craft session following

Refreshments compliments of
Trucchi's Supermarkets and The Grandfield Family

Flowers donated by Pillsbury Florist

Student Art Show
West Bridgewater Middle/Senior High School
Justin Finley and Elizabeth Chrisman, Art Teachers

Biography of James L. Grandfield

James L. Grandfield was born on December 12, 1922 and grew up in Somerset, Massachusetts. He was the son of John Grandfield, a businessman and Ann (Donahue) Grandfield, a nurse. Both of his parents emphasized the value of a good education and instilled the love of reading at an early age. He was an avid reader his entire life. He attended Coyle High School and Tufts University. He volunteered for the Army Air Corps in 1942 and served his country with honor during WW II and the Korean War as a fighter pilot and instructor. Mr. Grandfield spent 38 years with New England Telephone & Telegraph in various states throughout New England during his career. He retired in 1982 as head of Labor Relations for the company. He enjoyed many hobbies including flying, hunting, horses, ham radio, and his beloved beagle dogs. He moved with his family to West Bridgewater in 1966, where he was active in community affairs and town meetings. He was a member of St. Ann's Church for 38 years and served many years as a Eucharistic Minister.

He was Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees from 1984 to 1996. In September 1988 he participated in the official ground breaking ceremony for the present library building. This building became a reality on May 6, 1990, and he felt it was a tribute to the democratic form of government as the voters of the town thought that a new library should be built. He was most appreciative of the Library Staff, Library Trustees, Selectmen, Building Committee, Friends of the Library, and volunteers who came together to accomplish this project. Mr. Grandfield died September 5, 2004, and it was at his request that any donations in his memory be made to the Public Library. The naming of the Children's Room is a fitting tribute to his memory.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Victor R. Flaherty, *Chairman* — Matthew P. Albanese, *Clerk*
Eldon F. Moreira, *Member*

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian H. Lanner, *Chairman*
Robert L. Sullivan, *Vice Chairman* — George G. Hardiman
Joan F. Sheedy, *Secretary* — Richard P. Adams

LIBRARY STAFF

Beth Roll Smith, *Library Director*
April Mc Dermott, *Assistant Director*

Jane Cartier — Betty Turner
Ella Adams — Joanna Pistone
Ellen Crawford — Ginalaurisa Shea
Sherry Pinter — Michelle Sheehan

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Joanna Savage, *President*
Officers and Committee Chairs

Laurel Swanson, *Secretary* — Evelyn Bandlow, *Gifts & Bequests*
Deborah Tisdale, *Treasurer* — Kathleen Massey, *Membership*
Mariann Lorray, *RIF Chairperson* — Virginia Michael
Anne Gillis

IF

a poem by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
  Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
  But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
  Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
  And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream--and not make dreams your master;
  If you can think--and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
  And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
  Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
  And stoop and build'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
  And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
  And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
  To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
  Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
  Or walk with Kings--nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
  If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
  With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
  And--which is more--you'll be a Man my son!